

Other Accomplishments

Small Farm and Farmland Legacy Planning

- 18 plans written or updated
- 9 projects implemented

Engineering

- Technical assistance provided to 46 cooperators resulting in 19 BMPs

CREP

- 481.5 acres totaling 146,210 stream feet/27.7 miles of conservation buffers with a total of 202,745 trees

Forestry, Firewise and EQIP

- 11 forest plans totaling 402 acres
- 3 forest certifications
- 1 Firewise Community/USA
- 1 Skagit County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- 12 EQIP practices implemented

Community Participation & Involvement

- 1,570 hours reported by volunteers
- 17 Watershed Masters participants
- 58 Stream Team participants
- 18 Shellfish Monitoring volunteers
- 54 Backyard Conservation Stewardship Course participants installing habitat practices on approximately 13.5 acres of land

Youth Education

- 12 Arbor Day presentations with over 350 trees distributed
- 6th Grade Conservation Tour with over 700 students participating
- Soil and Water Stewardship poster contest with 120 entries

2008 Feature Accomplishment

Promoting Healthy Forests through Wildland Fire Planning

Resource Challenge

Because today's forests are dense, and populations are ever-expanding into these forests, modern wildfires are much larger and more catastrophic. The challenge is to educate homeowners, giving them the tools to protect themselves and their forestlands from wildfire.



Fuels reduction project
Firewise training

Project Summary and Results

Skagit Conservation District (SCD) is addressing this resource concern on many levels by:

1. Developing a county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan;
Updating the fire section of the Skagit County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan as required in order to receive federal disaster mitigation funding.
2. Soliciting participation in the Firewise Communities/USA Program;
3. Promoting forest stewardship education, as workshop speakers;
4. Developing successful partnerships; and
5. Training conservation districts across the state to do the same.

SCD is successfully facilitating the awareness, enthusiasm and motivation of not only Skagit County residents, but communities across the state in planning and mitigating for wildfire and improving the health of our forests.

Key Project Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission
Conservation Districts statewide
Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources
Skagit County Planning
Skagit County Fire Districts
Skagit County NHMP Steering Committee
Skagit County Department of Emergency Management



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Paul Blau, Vice-chair
Mike Naylor, Treasurer
Tony Hansen, Member
Ryan Sakuma, Member

More Work To Do

- Many waterways of the Lower Skagit Watershed fail to meet WQ standards, including ones that drain to shellfish beds. SCD will be working with farmers to implement conservation plans for improving WQ as well as working to educate residents on how they can improve their urban watershed.
- SCD will continue to work with small forest landowners, as well as state and federal landowners to develop and implement forest stewardship plans.
- SCD will continue to seek funding and socio-economic opportunities to keep farming and forestry viable.